

CRITICAL COMMUNITY WATERSHED WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS (CWP)² DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY SUMMARY



- 1) The threat of wildfire to Colorado Front Range watersheds is a call to action to reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfires because:
 - a) Water is an essential and scarce resource in Colorado, especially along the Front Range.
 - b) The threat of large, high-severity wildfires is real and existing evidence suggests that the threat is increasing and is likely to continue to increase in the foreseeable future.
 - c) The threat can be reduced through strategic treatment of hazardous fuels.
- 2) What are Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plans (CWP)²s and why are they necessary?
 - a) Watershed wildfire protection plans are written strategies for water providers, public land management agencies, private landowners, state and local governments, local fire authorities and water users that identify the type and specific location of treatments necessary to reduce wildfire hazards and the specific measures needed to protect reservoirs, intakes, water transportation and distribution structures, and other facilities from high-severity wildfires.
 - b) (CWP)²s are necessary because they identify the locations of hazardous fuels and areas prone to post-fire flooding. Treatments designed to reduce hazardous fuels are specifically located and prioritized, and other measures that can help protect water infrastructure are identified.
- 3) Who should prepare (CWP)²s?
 - a) Water providers
 - b) Watershed landowners, including land management agencies
 - c) Colorado State Forest Service
 - d) Local fire authorities
 - e) State and local governments
 - f) Other stakeholders including representatives of communities that have prepared Community Wildfire Protection Plans (Note: Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plans will be coordinated with existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.)
- 4) What might their contents include? (See list in "Guidelines for Implementation." Note that the content of (CWP)²s is somewhat dependent on watershed ownership(s), whether public or private.)
- 5) What steps are involved in the implementation of a (CWP)²?
 - a) Develop a coalition to support actions identified in the (CWP)².
 - b) Begin implementation of plans where funding and support exist.
 - c) Develop plans and "pre-load" the planning process for sediment dams and other emergency measures, should they be needed.
 - d) Monitor effectiveness of actions designed to reduce wildfire hazards that are guided by plan priorities.
 - e) Report on plan effectiveness, review and update plans as necessary.

Commonality in Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plan development and implementation: A transparent public process is imperative, because public lands and public funds probably will be involved.